

How Our Budget Works

Each year the Mayor, Common Council and City staff work together to develop an annual balanced budget. This involves making decisions on how to use the limited revenues the City receives to provide high quality services for city residents.



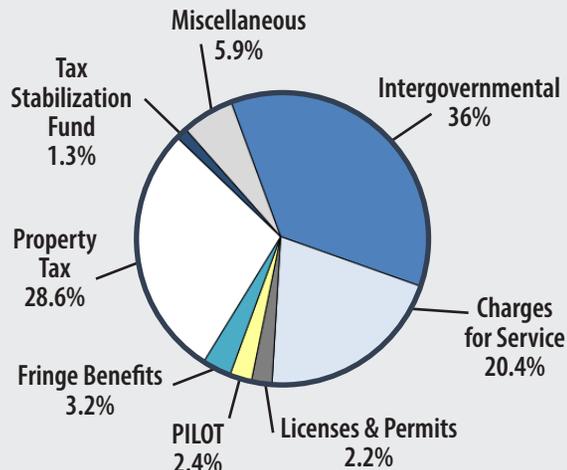
2021 Budget Calendar



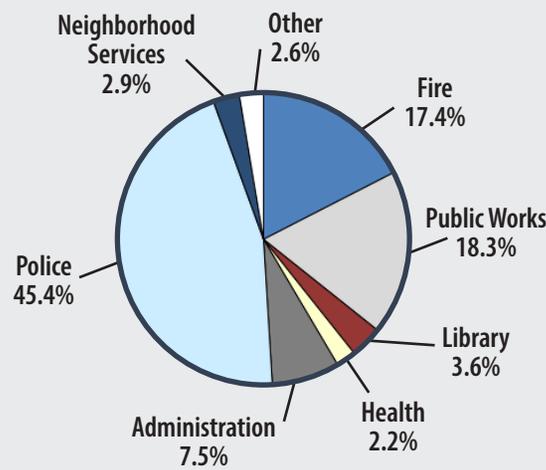
DOA 8.3.20

2020 Budget View Budget in Brief at milwaukee.gov/budget to learn more.

Where Does the Money Come From?



Where Does the Money Go?



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!



Your input is needed to help the city identify spending priorities and potential cuts to balance the 2021 budget.

TAKE SURVEY NOW - on other side

BALANCING ACT ↓ [(\$)] ↑
BUILD YOUR OWN 2021 CITY BUDGET

Complete the City of Milwaukee's online budget simulation at milwaukee.gov/budget



The City of Milwaukee is facing a \$60+ million budget gap in 2021. This means that the requests for spending in the 2021 Budget Requests from City departments exceed available revenues by more than \$60 million. Expenditure reductions and revenue increases will be necessary in order to balance the 2021 Budget.

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED
to help the City identify spending priorities and potential cuts to balance the 2021 budget.

1. Required Information

Are you a City of Milwaukee resident? Yes / No
What is your ZIP code? _____

2. How familiar are you with the City of Milwaukee budget and budget process?

- _____ Very familiar
- _____ Familiar
- _____ Somewhat familiar
- _____ Not so familiar
- _____ Not familiar at all

3. The City makes decisions on the amount of funding allocated towards each service category as part of the budget process each year. If you had \$100 to spend across the following service categories, what dollar amount would you budget to each category? (Your choices should add up to \$100)

- \$_____ City Development (economic development, housing, planning)
- \$_____ Police Services
- \$_____ Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- \$_____ Public Health Services (COVID prevention/mitigation, lead abatement, STI services, Office of Violence Prevention)
- \$_____ Libraries (neighborhood libraries, afterschool & summer programming for youth)
- \$_____ Public Works (garbage, recycling, snow plowing, streets, bridges, street lighting)
- \$_____ Neighborhood Services (code enforcement, permitting, inspections, nuisance abatement)
- \$_____ Other: _____

4. The City of Milwaukee is dedicated to providing the highest quality services possible for residents and often partners with schools, businesses, community-based organizations and more to achieve defined community goals. Below are the City's six goals. Please select the top three goals that are most important to you. (select three choices from the list below)

- _____ Building safe and healthy neighborhoods
- _____ Helping children succeed, prepare for post-secondary education, and meet their full potential
- _____ Increasing investment and economic strength throughout Milwaukee and in your neighborhood
- _____ Promoting racial, social and economic equity for all residents
- _____ Improving workforce development and connecting more residents to family supporting jobs
- _____ Sustaining, enhancing and promoting Milwaukee's natural environmental assets

5. Rank which of the following fees or taxes you would prefer to increase in order to address the city's budget gap? (from 1-6, with one being the increase you prefer most and six being the increase you prefer the least)

| | Rank 1-6 |
|---|-----------------|
| Property Taxes (a tax on the value of taxable real estate in the City) | _____ |
| Snow and Ice Control Fee (a charge for removing snow and ice from City streets) | _____ |
| Solid Waste Fee (a charge for garbage collection) | _____ |
| Sewer Fee (a charge for sewer services) | _____ |
| Vehicle Registration Fee (\$20 fee to register vehicle in the City) | _____ |
| Parking Citations and Fees (parking tickets, meters, etc.) | _____ |

6. The sales tax in Milwaukee is currently 5.5% on purchases like clothes, electronics, and dining out. The sales tax is not charged on groceries. Increasing the sales tax by 1% to 6.5% in Milwaukee would mean that for a \$10 purchase, you pay sales tax of 65 cents instead of 55 cents. Would you support a 1% sales tax increase in Milwaukee that would generate approximately \$70 million in revenue to improve city services and reduce property taxes? _____ Yes _____ No

7. If the City of Milwaukee did implement a 1% sales tax increase, how would you prefer to see the \$70 million per year in revenue spent?

8. Optional Demographic Information

What is your age? _____ What is your gender? _____
What is your race and/or ethnicity? _____